

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

September 9, 2003

Montana weather and precipitation summary, through September 9 2003.

Typical summer precipitation patterns prevailed in August. Scattered thunderstorms have dropped locally heavy amounts of rainfall across the state. Many areas have continued the dry pattern that has prevailed for most of the summer. Although some locations have received more than their average precipitation to date, the water-year values remain low, with respect to normal. Five locations are now in the top ten driest water-year periods of record. In early September, local rainfall amounts up to one inch have been recorded in scattered areas. Very warm temperatures have persisted as well. Several long-term records for heat have been established, continuing the heat spell that began in July. In the previous month, temperatures have averaged 4 to 8 degrees above the 30-year average.

**Historical Rank of Precipitation (inches)
for the Past Month and Water Year to Date**

Location	Aug 1 - Aug 31	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Sep 9	% of Normal	Rank	Years on Record
Billings	0.03	4	8.56	62	4 th driest	69
Bozeman	0.33	29	11.88	87	23 rd driest	62
Butte	1.75	129	9.27	77	18 th driest	84
Cut Bank	0.04	2	4.82	41	1 st driest	90
Dillon	0.75	64	7.73	71	16 th driest	65
Glasgow	0.86	69	8.75	83	27 th driest	110
Great Falls	1.31	79	9.67	69	12 th driest	110
Havre	0.77	64	8.52	79	21 th driest	123
Helena	1.04	81	8.67	82	21 st driest	123
Kalispell	0.33	26	9.64	59	4 th driest	103
Lewistown	0.37	20	12.19	72	9 th driest	77
Livingston	0.65	47	12.96	88	22 nd driest	54
Miles City	0.26	22	8.86	69	9 th driest	109
Missoula	0.56	49	11.85	91	18 th driest	54

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/greatfalls/getproduct.pl?PCPNTOTALS>

For a state map of % of normal water year precipitation (updated around the 7th of each month), go to:
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html

For the latest information on mountain snow pack from the NRCS, go to:
[Western Mountain Snowpack - NRCS](#)

For the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to:
[Drought Monitor](#)

Montana precipitation/temperature forecast.

As of September 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through September 2003, with above normal temperatures forecast. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long-range forecasts can be found at [CPC long range predictions](#)

Further inquiries about the moisture conditions can be directed to Dave Bernhardt, Gina Loss, or Ken Pomeroy at (406) 453-2081. Many more links can be found on the Drought Information Page of the NWS Great Falls web site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?HTML+drought>